



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Henry J. Mroz Administration Office
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

William J. Samaras
Mayor and Chairperson

Jackie Doherty
Vice-Chairperson

Andre P. Descoteaux
Robert J. Hoey Jr.
Dominik Hok Lay
Connie A. Martin
Gerard Nutter

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
5:30 p.m.

Tel: (978) 674-4324
Fax: (978) 937-7609

Subcommittee Members Present:

Chairperson Gerry Nutter and Andy Descoteaux
Dominik Hok Lay arrived at 5:42 p.m.

School Committee Members Present:

Jackie Doherty and Robert Hoey

School Department Personnel Present:

Jeannine Durkin, Acting Superintendent
Billie Jo Turner, Assistant Superintendent for
Finance
Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Assessment

The Subcommittee update is in response to the following motion:

Motion by School Committee Member Gerry Nutter, which was approved at the
February 6, 2019, School Committee Meeting:

"School Committee request Superintendent to bring forward a budget presentation and meeting schedule for the 2019/2020 school year" and Mr. Nutter also requested that a Finance Subcommittee meeting take place prior to the March 20, 2019 School Committee meeting regarding the 2019/2020 Budget.

Chairperson Gerry Nutter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following agenda item was discussed:

- Outlook for the FY20 Budget

Chairperson Nutter stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the FY20 budget. He then asked Assistant Superintendent Turner to address the Subcommittee. Assistant Superintendent Turner stated that the district has started the budget process for next year to see if reductions will be needed. The Chapter 70 numbers are encouraging with an estimated seven (7) million dollar increase as well the required district contribution of an estimated two (2) million dollars.

Mr. Nutter asked what the estimated increase in salary and step increases is.

Assistant Superintendent Turner stated that the teachers alone are over five (5) million dollars. She stated that health care costs are estimated to be going up by 3.3 or 3.5 percent which will be over one (1) million dollars. Transportation will be going up as well. Assuming the district gets the total estimated nine (9) million dollars it would leave the district with an estimated three (3) million dollar deficit. The estimated three (3) million dollar deficit doesn't include adding 5th graders, or any other staff changes (increases or decreases).

Presently, rosters and staffing models are being reviewed with each Principal to learn about what they currently have and what they need. She stated that due to the fact that enrollment often changes without the accompanying modification to staff, some schools may have more than a school with more needs. A template has been created for each model with documented staffing requirements. Each instance of deviation will require back up information to support this change. This will allow the district to make staff changes based on priority and district need. Included in this will be special education caseloads and ELL enrollment with each school for comparisons when making difficult decisions. After Assistant Superintendent Turner meets with all of these schools and clarifies their staff, the administration will be able to make reductions or changes with data to back up their decisions. The same staffing models are being created for middle school too. There will be a template for each school with the coding structure built in so that the budgeting and charging will be identical and reporting will be far more accurate and understandable.

Assistant Superintendent Turned also reported that Lowell will be hosting a forum on April 22nd regarding the foundation budget and that Lowell will be part of a law suit that will address the underfunding of the foundation budget.

Acting Superintendent added that a draft maintenance of effort proposal has been sent to the City Manager and her team and they're reviewing it and will be in touch with a time to meet for further discussion.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to adjourn at 6:23 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Lay. 3 yeas APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,



Billie Joe Turner, Assistant
Superintendent for Finance for
Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting
Superintendent and Acting Secretary,
Lowell School Committee

BJT/mes